

Appl. No. 10/025,071

Response dated October 12, 2004

Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2004

**Recitation of the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) A method of making an absorbent personal care product comprising:
  - a) supplying a retention-barrier composite web having an absorbent material adhered to a liquid barrier sheet and cut to individual product lengths;
  - b) providing a soft and flexible backsheet;
  - c) adding soft and flexible waist elastics to the backsheet;
  - d) adding soft and flexible leg elastics to the backsheet;
  - e) coating the construction of steps b)-d) with adhesive and adhering the retention-barrier composite web substantially between the waist and leg elastics to the backsheet;
  - f) adhering a fluid distribution layer over and within the central portion of the retention-barrier composite web;
  - g) adhering a soft and flexible topsheet over the construction of steps a)-f) to create a precursor product web; and
  - h) cutting the precursor product web into individual absorbent personal care products.
2. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid barrier sheet is liquid impermeable.
3. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid barrier sheet is vapor permeable.
4. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid barrier sheet is selected from one of the group including: SMS, fluorocarbon treated SMS, microporous film, and inherently breathable film.
5. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid barrier sheet is elastic.
6. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the liquid barrier sheet is extensible.

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7. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the backsheet is hydrophobic.
8. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the backsheet is vapor permeable.
9. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the backsheet is 0.6 osy spunbond.
10. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the backsheet is elastic.
11. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the backsheet is extensible.
12. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the waist elastic is liquid impermeable.
13. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the waist elastic is vapor permeable.
14. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the waist elastic is an SBL laminate.
15. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the leg elastic is liquid impermeable.
16. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the leg elastic is vapor permeable.
17. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the leg elastic is a LYCRA and SMS nonwoven laminate.
18. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the topsheet is liquid permeable.
19. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the topsheet is a porous 0.5 osy spunbond.
20. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the topsheet is elastic.
21. (original) The method of making an absorbent personal care product according to Claim 1, wherein the topsheet is extensible.

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22. (original) A method of making an absorbent personal care product comprising, the steps, in the order stated, of:

a) creating a retention-barrier composite web on a first component line by:

- i) wrapping a fluff pad in tissue forming a continuous retention web;
- ii) feeding an extendible, vapor-permeable, liquid barrier sheet material into the first component line;
- iii) adhering a spacer layer on the barrier sheet;
- iv) laminating the retention web to the spacer layer thereby creating a retention-barrier composite web;
- v) cutting leg openings in the retention-barrier composite web; and
- vi) cutting the retention-barrier composite web to individual garment lengths;

b) creating a precursor product web on a conversion line by:

- i) feeding a soft and flexible backsheet (elastic or extensible) into the conversion line;
- ii) adding soft and flexible waist elastics to the backsheet;
- iii) adding soft and flexible leg elastics to the backsheet;
- iv) coating the construction of steps i) - iii) with adhesive and adhering the retention-barrier composite web thereto;
- v) adhering a fluid distribution layer over and within the central portion of the retention-barrier composite web;
- vi) adhering a soft and flexible topsheet (elastic and extensible) over the whole construction of steps i) - v);
- vii) cutting leg holes in the backsheet and the topsheet and leaving said leg elastics adjacent the leg holes; and
- viii) cutting the precursor product web into individual absorbent personal care products.

23. (original) An absorbent personal care product consisting of:

- a) a retention-barrier composite web having an absorbent material adhered to an extendible vapor-permeable, liquid barrier sheet and cut to individual product lengths;

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- b) an extendible soft and flexible backsheet having soft and flexible waist elastics adhered to the backsheet and tensioned soft and flexible leg elastics adhered to the backsheet;
- c) the retention-barrier composite web adhered to the backsheet in an area between the waist elastics and the leg elastics;
- d) a fluid distribution layer adhered over and within the central portion of the retention-barrier composite web; and
- e) an extendible soft and flexible topsheet adhered to the soft and flexible backsheet and covering the retention-barrier composite web, the fluid distribution layer, the waist elastics and the leg elastics.

24. (previously presented) The absorbent personal care product of Claim 23 further consisting of the retention-barrier composite laying entirely between the leg and waist elastics.

25. (original) The absorbent personal care product of Claim 24 further consisting of containment flaps.

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